D1 cont'd

(1) contacting RNA from said sample and said control sample with a pair of primers, wherein said pair of primers consists of a first primer which hybridizes within exon 8 of the hTERT gene and a second primer which hybridizes within, upstream or downstream of exon 8 of the hTERT gene;

Sub E1

(2) amplifying the nucleic acid sequence;

(3) measuring the generation of amplification products;

(4) determining the quantity of hTERT mRNA comprising β-region coding sequence in said sample from the results obtained in step (3); and

(b) identifying the presence of cancerous cells in said sample if the quantity of hTERT mRNA comprising β-region coding sequence in said sample is greater than the quantity of hTERT mRNA comprising β-region coding sequence in said control sample.

D2

28. (Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein said second primer hybridizes upstream of exon 7 of the hTERT gene.

29. (Amended) The method of Claim 28, wherein said second primer hybridizes within exon 6 of the hTERT gene.

30. (Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein said second primer is SYC1118 (SEQ ID NO:5), SYC1076 (SEQ ID NO:2) or SYC1078 (SEQ ID NO:3).

31. (Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein the second primer hybridizes within exon 8.

32. (Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein said first primer is SYC1097 (SEQ ID NO:4).

33. (Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein the second primer hybridizes within exon 9.

D3

38. (Twice amended) A kit for identifying cancerous cells in a human sample, comprising a pair of primers, wherein said pair of primers consists of a first primer which

D3 cont'd

hybridizes within exon 8 of the hTERT gene and a second primer which hybridizes within, upstream or downstream of exon 8 of the hTERT gene and instructions for identifying cancerous cells.

39. (Amended) The kit of Claim 38, wherein said second primer hybridizes upstream of exon 7 of the hTERT gene.

40. (Amended) The kit of Claim 39, wherein said second primer hybridizes within exon 6 of the hTERT gene.

41. (Amended) The kit of Claim 38, wherein said second primer is SYC1118 (SEQ ID NO:5), SYC1076 (SEQ ID NO:2) or SYC1078 (SEQ ID NO:3).

42. (Amended) The kit of Claim 38, wherein said first primer is SYC1097 (SEQ ID NO:4).

43. (Amended) The kit of Claim 38, further comprising a probe which hybridizes at a sequence encompassing the exon 7-exon 8 splice junction.

Please add new Claims 46-49:

D4

46. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein step (2) additionally comprises amplifying the nucleic acid sequence in the presence of a probe which hybridizes to the nucleic acid sequence.

47. (New) The method of Claim 46, wherein the probe is labeled.

48. (New) The kit of Claim 38, further comprising a probe which hybridizes to a sequence which is amplified by the first and second primers.

49. (New) The kit of Claim 38, wherein the probe is labeled.